

## County Profile: Monmouth

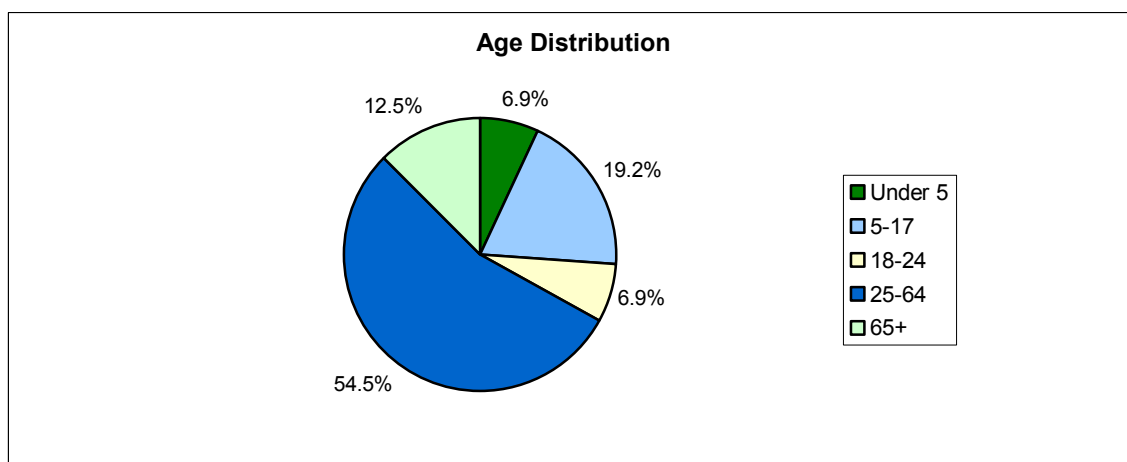


### General Demographics

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 615,301 individuals reside in Monmouth County's 53 municipalities. These individuals are spread out over a land area of 471.94 square miles, which translates into a population density of 1,303.8 persons per square mile. This makes Monmouth County the 4<sup>th</sup> most populous of the state's 21 counties.

At 11.2%, Monmouth County grew more from 1990 to 2000 than the statewide average of 8.9%. However, twelve municipalities experienced reductions in their population over the decade, including the county's largest municipality, Middletown township, which declined 2.7% (total 2000 population – 66,327). Nine municipalities experienced more than 25% growth from 1990 to 2000, including Millstone township, which grew by 77% (total 2000 population – 8,970); other municipalities experiencing population growth of more than one-fourth included Colts Neck, Englishtown, Freehold township, Holmdel, Howell, Manalapan, and Marlboro.

Monmouth County has 160,342 children under the age of 18. They comprise 26.1% of the county's total population and 7.7% of the state's child population. Approximately 61.4% of Monmouth County residents are of working age (18 through 64), and 12.5% are 65 years and older. The median age is 37.7 years of age, slightly higher than the statewide median of 36.7.



## ***Child Welfare***

Monmouth County's portion of statewide child abuse and neglect referrals is greater than the proportion of children residing in the county. While 7.7% of all children in New Jersey reside in Monmouth County, 8.2%, or 3,171 of the child abuse and neglect referrals are generated there. The patterns of abuse and neglect differ from the state pattern, with a higher percentage of referrals for neglect and lower percentages for physical and sexual abuse.

### **Child Abuse and Neglect Referrals in 2001**

	Monmouth County		New Jersey	
	N	%	N	%
Physical abuse	810	25.5	12,382	32.0
Emotional abuse	30	0.9	330	0.9
Sexual	111	3.5	2,179	5.6
Neglect	2,048	64.6	22,099	57.1
Multiple types	172	5.4	1,716	4.4
<i>Total</i>	3,171	---	38,706	---
Substantiated rate per 1,000 children	3.7	---	4.0	---
Percent substantiated	18.5	---	21.8	---

In the two Monmouth County District Offices, the active DYFS caseload is 3,062 children and 1,555 families. There are 349 in-state foster homes in Monmouth County. There are 485 Monmouth County children in foster care, which is 6.2% of the 7,807 children in foster care in New Jersey and less than the percentage of children residing in this county. Of the Monmouth County children in foster care, 46.6% reside in a different county than their family, which is slightly more than the out-of-county statewide average of 44.6%.

From 1998 to 2002, one child in Monmouth County died as a result of abuse and neglect out of a statewide total of 123. This family had a closed DYFS case at the time of death. The number of all infants who died in Monmouth County in 2000 was 38, 5.3% of the 723 infant deaths occurring in the state. The infant mortality rate of 4.7 deaths under the age of 1 per 1,000 live births was lower than the statewide rate of 6.3.

## ***Child Welfare Outcome Measures***

Information on various child welfare outcomes for Monmouth County is presented in the following table.<sup>1</sup> Monmouth County does better compared to the national standard in one area, placement stability. The percentage of Monmouth children who have been in placement no more than twelve months who have no more than two placements within that time period is 92%, the second highest in the state, and substantially higher than the national standard of 86.7%.

<sup>1</sup> See definitions that follow for detailed descriptions of the categories presented in this table.

In other areas, Monmouth County does not meet the national standards for child welfare outcomes. For example, the percentage of children exiting foster care who re-enter care within 12 months of a previous episode is 12.2%, compared to a national standard of 8.6% and the fifth highest in the state. In addition, compared to the national standard, a smaller percentage of Monmouth foster children were reunified with parents or caregivers within twelve months of discharge from foster care. The county's incidence of abuse and/or neglect within foster care exceeded the national standard of .57% and the recurrence of maltreatment in foster care was also higher than the national standard. There were also smaller percentages of children who exited foster care for adoption within 24 months compared to the national standard (14.6% compared to a national standard of 32%).

### 2001 Child Welfare Outcome Measures by County

	Monmouth County	State	National Standard
Recurrence of maltreatment	6.9%	6.4%	6.1% or less
A/N incidence in foster care	1.0%	.78%	.57% or less
Reunify within 12 months without increasing re-entry	50.5%	59.5%	76.2% or more
Re-enter care within 12 months	12.2%	8.2%	8.6% or less
Reduce time in foster care to adoption	14.6%	16.3%	32.0% or more
Increase placement stability	92.0%	86.2%	86.7% or more

Note. Data supplied by DYFS

### Definitions

**Reduce recurrence of maltreatment** – of children who were victims of substantiated or indicated child abuse and/or neglect during the first six months of the reporting period, the percentage who had another substantiated or indicated report within a six-month period.

**A/N incidence in foster care** – of children who were in foster care during the reporting period, the percentage that was the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member.

**Reunify within 12 months without increasing re-entry** – of children reunified with parents or caretakers at time of discharge from foster care, the percentage reunified within 12 months.

**Re-enter care within 12 months** – of children who entered foster care during the reporting period, the percentage that re-entered care within 12 months of leaving foster care episode.

**Reduce time in foster care to adoption** – of all children who exited foster care to adoption, the percentage who exited within 24 months.

**Increase placement stability** – of all children who had been in foster care less than 12 months, the percentage who had no more than two placement settings during that time period.

## **Data Sources**

DYFS Approved Foster Homes File, 8/4/03  
DYFS Caseload Activity Report (DAR-SISM-5), 8/1/03  
DYFS, Child Abuse and Neglect in New Jersey Statistical Report for 2000  
DYFS Child Abuse and Neglect in New Jersey Statistical Report for 2001  
DYFS Foster Care File Extract, 6/6/03  
DYFS Statewide Summary of Foster Homes (DAR-PCISM-1), 7/4/03  
NJ Substantiated Abuse and Neglect Child Fatality Analysis for 1998-2002, July 2003  
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 1990  
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Redistricting Data Summary File, Population for the Counties and Municipalities in New Jersey: 1990 and 2000 (PL1)  
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 1, Geographic Comparison Table, Age and Sex (GCT-P5)  
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 1, Geographic Comparison Table, Population, Housing Units, Area and Density (GCT-PH1-R)  
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 1, Quick Table, QT-P2.  
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Demographic Profiles, Profile of General Demographic Characteristics (DP-1)

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